

THE SIEGE OF PARIS FORETOLD.

(From the *Lancet* of 18th July.)

Some one gifted with a good memory has lighted upon an old number of the *Observer* for 1841, in which the events of the siege were predicted in a surprising manner. At this time M. Thiers was Prime-Minister of France under Louis Philippe, and sustained a severe check in his foreign policy from Lord Palmerston, in conjunction with the other European Powers, who were determined to prevent the Sultan and the Viceroy of Egypt. To avenge the insult to French diplomacy, and to provide for the security of the capital, M. Thiers commenced the siege of Paris, which was the subject of much criticism, and generally was regarded as a monstrous plan, or wild notion. Among the voices that were raised against the project was the *Observer*, the hand of those days. Under the title "Paris in 1841," M. Thiers, in his "Besieged," we find the following curious forecast:

March 1.—The Government has learned to-day that the armies of the coalition are marching from Troyes and Combray, and will be able to test the worth of the fortifications demanded five years ago by the parliament of M. Thiers.

March 2.—Not being able to risk an unequal combat, the French Army has fallen back upon the Loire. It is maintaining an attitude of observation while awaiting the moment for attacking a final strong point, the south of Paris, where our own plans of campaign have drawn 1,500,000 ounces of the coalition.

March 3.—This morning all the cattle on which the Parisians are to be fed during the siege have been sent to the south of the city. These poor animals have come so far that the majority of them die of fatigue as soon as they arrive.

March 4.—The city has passed into the hands of the military. There is no longer communication with the country.

March 5.—The streets are covered with sawdust to deaden the shock of the bombs. The houses are closed, and numerous failures are declared.

March 6.—Black flags have been placed on the summit of the hospitals, and the public buildings. Planks and mattresses have been placed on the surface of Notre Dame, so as to preserve the city from the effects of the enemy's bullets. M. Victor Hugo presides at this great work.

March 7.—The French army of the Loire is in a plight that only the most heroic efforts can save it. The price of bread, vegetables are beginning to fail, and the cold is excessive. Market gardens have stopped coming to town.

March 8.—A report is spread that the enemy was already at Meaux. Nothing is done but grind powder and make up at Vincennes and the fortifications. The *Monsieur de Paris* has stopped advertising for the four months of the day. At this stage the military authorities suspended the liberty of the press.

March 9.—The theatres are closed and prayers are offered in all the churches. M. Thiers's house is burned in the afternoon. Fortunately the celebrated journalist was not at home.

March 10.—The army has opened the first trench, but was repulsed by an energetic sortie. March 11.—The French army has been driven back into its own camp for keeping private.

March 12.—The enemy has opened the second parallel. Marshal St. Arnaud is preparing to resist attack on Mont Valerien. The French army is in flames. Cuts are being sold at 24 francs.

March 13.—It is believed that the French Army has been betrayed. No more men, no more bread, no more ammunition. Discussions have broken out between the National Guard and the Line. The former refuse to serve. A bill of bullets is being sent to the town. The city is divided into two sections, the one to be surrendered, and the other to burn the city as a revenge for the desecration of Meaux. Ours of bread resound in all the streets. The bombards are frightful. The population, swells the surrounding army, but before this can arrive the forts are occupied by the enemy, who turn the guns on the city. The National Guard refuse service, and capitulation is decided on.

Such is the prediction of the *Observer*, which really happened 32 years later. The writer on the 4th of April, 1841, the date in which the above appeared in the *Observer*. The writer evidently took the measure of his country better than the men in power who brought on the events so singularly prophesied. But as a concession to the national pride of his readers, he wound up this picture with a sudden turn of fortune. "Just as the enemy were hurrying over the keys of the city to the victors, the 'Army of the Loire' arrived, and, after a desperate battle, routed the enemy. This was played for in vain in 1871.

RUSTIC PLEASURES.
A country walk! For simplicity and idleness of pleasure what can equal a country walk? One finds this chiefly realized, even yet, in the neighbourhood of Paris. Villages and country "suits" are made up of country walks, and in great cities such pleasures as that of "a walk in the fields" are almost out of the question. Many between these experiences have the country as a resource, and a near country town you may meet, on all its sides, young people often freely mixed with seniors, on their way to some wood or dike for an afternoon's enjoyment in the breeze, and the shade, and the sun. But what is the use of this? It is not always distant the picturesque of the rural, nor interfere with its pleasures. Great alterations they effect, but alterations are sometimes made in the country, and the more the alterations, the more the pleasures. Railways do certainly modify the country walk, and diminish the number of available spots, near quiet towns, for walks to be made. I used to know a country walk leading to an almost equally wild and tangled wood, near a country town, unknown in those days to railways, coaches, or any other more stirring traffic than the weary tramp of sheep feet, and the occasional passing of a horse-drawn carriage, and a deep in tangled water and stiff clay mud.

How the horses used to labour on the dog-rods and blackberry-bush boughs rearing their heads and scratching their flanks, and how deep the ruts used to be in the mud, and the mud, I remember well it was yesterday. A railway has destroyed all that now, and the lane is a good hard macadamized road. The nuts and nut-trees are no longer to be found in what used to be the wood. Evidently, "orange-trees," and "red-wood," no longer in such unusual abundance as when a boy that I knew something about, spent a summer half-holidays there, when a butterfly net and some bird's nest were the only things he used for "a walk," but were in memory of old times that for its rustic pleasures, so sadly now diminished. The last time I sat there I found a few more signs of reminiscence, surprise, grief, and joy, but the place, it is said, this place that knew me no more, that had forgotten so evidently my butterfly net, and its own mossy tree-trunks and leafy boughs, but my tears fell inward, directed by a searching engine, a rattling wagonette, and various other signs of life and lawful progress. The country walk is not so much, in my present view, as the rustic pleasures that belong to residence in really country, in villages, and districts. It is pleasant to see them from the tops of high embankments in all their picturesque and charming variety, but it is far pleasanter, notwithstanding the discomforts of experience, to live in the midst of them. It is no small matter—though an abrupt descent from high embankments of sentiment to the lower level of eating and drinking is to be and is apologized for—to be quite sure of the cream that is in the white, steamed or happily brown-shelled egg that greases the breakfast-table. It is well to be sure of the contents of the raised and decorated pork that invites you to the luncheon-board. The spring chicken, the turkey, and the few other such dainties, are all the better and the sweeter for not being accompanied by any disgusting misgivings on the part of the eater as to what made them so plump and full. And as for the cream that is in the cup of tea and coffee, you are more satisfied for knowing that it is not milk-powder by the name of cream, and that the milk was not, as the milkmaid even is skimming, but was really in the milk can.

Against this is to be set off the difficulty of getting fresh fish in a country village, but it is not so rare an accomplishment of the rustic pleasure as the national firm as it is used to be. And rustic pleasures are not, or they would scarcely be worth so joblike a strain of appreciative joy, composed of epigrammatic gratification. To go down of a morning

WHOLESALE MURDER BY A FEMALE POISONER.

(Alla California.)

A Desator, Illinois, despatch tells a remarkable story of wholesale murder by a female poisoner last September. A. W. Drake, a farmer, living near Monroeville, died under suspicious circumstances, and Mrs. Drake, his mother-in-law and housekeeper, was suspected of having had something to do with his sudden death, but no steps were taken to investigate the matter, and Mrs. Drake went on to live with her son in a comfortable manner, and was taken ill, and the physician summoned to her aid told her she was poisoned, and had a few hours to live. Facing in the end death, she made a confession, and confessed to having poisoned her husband in 1856, Mrs. A. W. Drake (the wife of Drake), two children of A. W. Drake, the wife of E. R. Drake, formerly of this city, and last September A. W. Drake, she then went to her son's, and a short time ago made a mixture of poison to administer to him on the first opportunity. Feeling well, a day or two afterwards, she went to her son's, and administered the poison by mistake, took the fatal dose prepared for her own son, which resulted in her own death.

A POST-OFFICE IN THE FAR WEST.

(Times.)

An American paper states that a special agent of the Post-office Department, recently visiting offices in Montana Territory, for the purpose of correcting any irregularities of post-masters, stopped at a small town, and found the post-office in a state of confusion. The post-office was a small one, and the post-master, a short time ago made a mixture of poison to administer to him on the first opportunity. Feeling well, a day or two afterwards, she went to her son's, and administered the poison by mistake, took the fatal dose prepared for her own son, which resulted in her own death.

OUTFITTING.

A Good Assortment of LAWN and BATHING COSTUMES.

BRAIDED SKIRTS, in

Pique, MUSLIN, LAWN, and BATHING.

Plain and Printed CAMBRIC, MUSLIN, ETC., and LUSTERS.

LADIES' BOOTS and SHOES.

Colored EMBROIDERED CLOTH, and Victoria TABLE COVERS.

GENTLEMEN'S SHIRTS, COLLARS, TIES, and SCARVES, in the latest styles.

UNDERSHIRTS and HOSIERY, in light summer materials.

FOR SALE.

SUPERIOR GARDEN COALS, in lots to suit purchasers, delivered ex Godowns or on board. Apply to

J. M. 1185 Hongkong, 23rd July, 1873.

FOR SALE.

JOHN DURAND & Co.'s FAMOUS BORDERS, in

CLARET, ST. JAMES, MARGATE, LAROSE, and LATITE, in 1 dozen cases, ROBERTS'S CELEBRATED OIL-PANES.

OILS, in 2 doz. cases.

ST. JAMES'S and KENT'S GENUINE PORT WINES and SHERRIES, in 1 doz. cases, bottled in the London docks.

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Vessels Advertised as Loading.

DESTINATION	VESSEL'S NAME	CAPTAIN	AT	FOR FREIGHT APPLY TO	TO BE DISPATCHED
MELBOURNE AND SYDNEY	Brilliant	Norman	Hongkong	Bozaro & Co.	Quick dispatch.
NEW YORK	Yacinta	A. R. H. H. H.	Hongkong	Vogel, Hagedorn & Co.	Quick dispatch.
HAMBURG	Yacinta	A. R. H. H. H.	Hongkong	Vogel, Hagedorn & Co.	Quick dispatch.
SAN FRANCISCO	Yacinta	A. R. H. H. H.	Hongkong	Vogel, Hagedorn & Co.	Quick dispatch.
SPAIN, GALLE, BOMBAY	Yacinta	A. R. H. H. H.	Hongkong	Vogel, Hagedorn & Co.	Quick dispatch.
YOKOHAMA AND HIOGO	Yacinta	A. R. H. H. H.	Hongkong	Vogel, Hagedorn & Co.	Quick dispatch.
SHANGHAI AND TIENTSIN	Yacinta	A. R. H. H. H.	Hongkong	Vogel, Hagedorn & Co.	Quick dispatch.
NINGPO AND SHANGHAI	Yacinta	A. R. H. H. H.	Hongkong	Vogel, Hagedorn & Co.	Quick dispatch.
SWATOW, AMOY, FOOCHOW	Yacinta	A. R. H. H. H.	Hongkong	Vogel, Hagedorn & Co.	Quick dispatch.

For Sale.

SAYLE & Co.

HAVE just opened the undermentioned

GOODS:—

TAILORING DEPARTMENT.

SCOTCH TWEEDS AND ANGOLAS, for

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FANCY CLOTHES for Light OVERCOATS,

COATINGS for Spring Wear.

FLANNELS, DRILLS, and DUCKS, for

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QUINTINGS for VESTS.

BEDFORD CORD and KERSEYMERE

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A Good Assortment of LAWN and BATHING

COSTUMES.

BRAIDED SKIRTS, in

Pique, MUSLIN, LAWN, and BATHING.

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For Sale.

THOMPSON & HIND

HAVE just received, ex FRENCH MAIL,

A Large and Well Selected Stock of

HUMAN HAIR.

IN RABAGAS, COILS, CHIGNONS,

PLAITS, and PIECES.

PADS, ROLLS, and POMPADOURS.

SOLAR PITH HATS, direct from Calcutta,

for Ladies, Gentlemen, and Children.

Extracts.

THE SUNBEAM.
(From "Lydia Lezelle.")
There's a sunbeam down to earth,
To show a way to the night;
Or a ray of the sun's land
To show a way to the light.
It entered by the open door,
To smile upon the bride;
And then its brightest gleam
The hallo'd altar-side.
It hovered by the sick man's bed,
To leave a blessing there;
And to the lonely widow
An answer to her prayer.
Before the captive eye like hope,
Its fullest lustre shone;
And left a blessing in its train,
Whence it lighted on.
It touched the little nestling's wing,
And wafted each dark of green;
And spoke of all the sunlight power,
Wherever it was seen.
And lastly, like a tiny star,
It twinkled down the sea;
One moment in the golden West,
It lingered doubtfully;
And then, as the sun of light
Were bursting from the cell,
It kindled into red,
And so for ever fell.

NAPOLÉON AND MURAT.

On the retreat from Moscow, we verily believe that Napoleon was wrong in listening to the timid advice of the commander of the Imperial Guard (Bessier), instead of instantly adopting the bold suggestion of the brave Murat. The latter officer with his usual boldness said, "Why should we fear the Russians? Give me but the remains of the cavalry and that of the Imperial Guard, and I will plunge into their forests, and open the road to Kalouga at the sword's point." "Why did Napoleon not adopt the advice of Murat? Simply because he believed him to be an imbecile without judgment, when left to himself, although a Pukin in the field." A sad mistake was made here; the mind of Murat produced on this occasion a sensible notion. Napoleon made no allowance, he never qualified his assertions. The despatch Murat's mental attainments, but deeply respected him for his bravery. In this instance he did not treat Murat as a man, but as a miserable idiot. The only conclusion I had was in the thought that he was the cause of the disaster. Tell me I forgive her. I believe she is the only woman I could forgive so soon. She must expect me to forget—I could never forget this way in which she sacrificed the King of Denmark. He put on his spectacles, after cleaning them with his silk handkerchief, and stooping over a crumpled letter, he took a note and made a note—*Shingville*.—Frederick Joliffe, *Chronicle of Copenhagen*.—From "Oleander Folk" by Agnes.

INSURANCES.

THE QUEEN INSURANCE COMPANY.
Capital, Two Million Sterling.

THE Underigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company at this port, are prepared to grant Policies against Fire, to the extent of £10,000, on Buildings or on Goods stored therein.

NORTON, LYALL & Co.
Agents, 22nd January, 1872.

OCEAN MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.
INCORPORATED 1859.

CAPITAL, £2,000,000.
THE Underigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company at this port, are prepared to grant Policies against Fire, to the extent of £10,000, on Buildings or on Goods stored therein.

AUGUSTINE HEARD & Co.
Agents, 7th June, 1872.

IMPERIAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.
THE Underigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company at this port, are prepared to grant Policies against Fire, to the extent of £10,000, on Buildings or on Goods stored therein.

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.
Agents, 24th August, 1872.

PHENIX FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.
THE Underigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company at this port, are prepared to grant Policies against Fire, to the extent of £10,000, on Buildings or on Goods stored therein.

DOUGLAS LAPEL & Co.
Agents, 27th June, 1872.

VICTORIA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF HONGKONG, LIMITED.
THE Underigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company at this port, are prepared to grant Policies against Fire, to the extent of £10,000, on Buildings or on Goods stored therein.

AUGUSTINE HEARD & Co.
Agents, 7th June, 1872.

TRANSATLANTIC FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF HAMBURG.
THE Underigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company at this port, are prepared to grant Policies against Fire, to the extent of £10,000, on Buildings or on Goods stored therein.

SLIMSEN & Co.
Agents, 18th November, 1872.

QUEEN INSURANCE COMPANY.
THE Underigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company at this port, are prepared to grant Policies against Fire, to the extent of £10,000, on Buildings or on Goods stored therein.

NORTON, LYALL & Co.
Agents, 22nd January, 1872.

IMPERIAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.
THE Underigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company at this port, are prepared to grant Policies against Fire, to the extent of £10,000, on Buildings or on Goods stored therein.

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.
Agents, 24th August, 1872.

THE GLOBE MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED, LONDON.
THE Underigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company at this port, are prepared to grant Policies against Fire, to the extent of £10,000, on Buildings or on Goods stored therein.

THE OCEANIC SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF BATAVIA.
THE Underigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company at this port, are prepared to grant Policies against Fire, to the extent of £10,000, on Buildings or on Goods stored therein.

THE SAMARANG SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF SAMARANG.
THE Underigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company at this port, are prepared to grant Policies against Fire, to the extent of £10,000, on Buildings or on Goods stored therein.

THE ATTENTION OF SHIPPERS is called to the low rates of Premiums charged by the Underigned Agents of above named Companies, in respect of marine risks, subject to a brokerage of 1 per cent.

THE "Oceania," as well as the "Globe," after paying the Shareholders a dividend of 10 per cent. on their paid-up Capital, distribute 25 per cent. of the net profits of the year 1871 upon each of the Insurers as held during the year 1870 and upwards in premium. Particulars can be obtained at the Office of

SLIMSEN & Co.
Agents, 16th October, 1872.

CHINESE INSURANCE COMPANY, (LIMITED).
NOTICE.

POLICIES granted at current rates on Marine Risks to all parts of the World, in accordance with the Company's Articles of Association. Two-thirds of the Profits are distributed annually to Contributors, whether Shareholders or not, in proportion to the amount of Premiums contributed by each, the remaining third being carried to Reserve Fund.

OLYMPHANT & Co.
General Agents, 17th April, 1873.

INSURANCES.

LONDON AND ORIENTAL STEAM TRANSPORT INSURANCE OFFICE.
137, LEADENHALL STREET, LONDON.

THE Underigned is authorized to accept risks on behalf of this Office, by First Class Steamers and Sailing Ships.

MANCHESTER FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF MANCHESTER AND LONDON.
THE Underigned have been appointed Agents for the above Company at this port, are prepared to grant Policies against Fire, to the extent of £10,000, on Buildings or on Goods stored therein.

HOLIDAY, WISE & Co.
Agents, 15th October, 1869.

LIVERPOOL AND LONDON AND GLOBE INSURANCE COMPANY.
THE Underigned have been appointed Agents for the above Company at this port, are prepared to grant Policies against Fire, to the extent of £10,000, on Buildings or on Goods stored therein.

DOUGLAS LAPEL & Co.
Agents, 27th June, 1872.

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.
THE Underigned have been appointed Agents for the above Company at this port, are prepared to grant Policies against Fire, to the extent of £10,000, on Buildings or on Goods stored therein.

ROBERT S. WALKER & Co.
Agents, 24th August, 1872.

PHENIX FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.
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INSURANCES.

THE QUEEN INSURANCE COMPANY.
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